AF FORM 112-PART I

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

DECLASSIFIED CON Authority MM 974352 By WI NARA Date 9/4/1

of 13 Pages

COUNTRY	52B-9617	-A	(LEAVE BLANK)	
AIR	INTELLIGENCE IN	FORMATI	ON REPORT	
Area Description	of UKHTA	No ex		
AREA REPORTED ON UKHTA, USSR		FROM (Agency)	7050 AISW (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 12 Apr 54	Mar 48 - Oct	50	EVALUATION C - 3	
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A KOLPI	N, Lt Col, USAF	SOURCE 2	15183	-
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, "previo				

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Past II.)

I. PREAMBLE:

S was interned in Russian penal camp (Pt 30, Incl 1, this Rpt) in the area of UKHTA (6334N-5324E), Mar 48 - Jul 50; in Russian penal camp (Pt 17, Incl 1, this Rpt(also in area of UKHTA, Jul 50 - Oct 50. S was employed at constr of wooden guardhouses adjacent to Russian penal camp (Pt 30, Incl 1, this Rpt) at constr of radio station (Pt 31, Incl 1, this Rpt), constr of building (Pt 24, Incl 1, this Rpt), constr of billets (Pt 27, Incl 1, this Rpt). No work during internment in penal camp (Pt 17, Incl 1, this Rpt). S observed area on way to and from work sites. He was never free to move in area, however. Info based on personal observations. S had no other info than given in Rpt; all figures are approx unless otherwise indicated.

II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ref is made to Incl 1, this Rpt, Memory Sketch of UKHTA, on which S identi-

fied the following pts:

1. PIPELINE. White-painted pipes, 15 cm diameter, laid along wooden poles 1 m above ground. Two crosswise fixed poles, spaced 5-6 m. Pipeline stretched 10-15 m E of street (Pt 2). Russians said pipeline was gas pipeline. N extension unknown. First observed in fall 49. S believed that pipeline stretched S direction of UKHTA (Pt 14). Section which S observed was 6-7 km E of penal camp (Pt 30). 2. STREET. 5-6 m wide. Rolled gravel. Fair condition. Vehicles not observed,

Traversed hilly, wooded, uncultivated country. No buildings along street. S observed

one section of 3 km length, fall 1949.

3. POWER LINE. Believed to have been telephone line. Six - 7 thin cables along wooden plons with iron cross bar. Pylons 4 m high. N-S extension of line unknown.

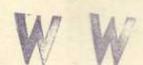
Telephone line (Pt 29) branched off this line and was built in Sep/Oct 49.

4. PENAL CAMP. # 14. Ten - 15 barracks, 3.5 m high wooden fence. Two-thousand Russian penal workers, no women. Aged 14-60 years. From all parts of USSR. Served terms of 5-25 years. Criminal and political convicts. S was interned in this camp 8 days in Mar 48 when he arrived in UKHTA area after internment in various jails in USSR. Four - 5 other German PWs were also interned in this camp. Immediately after arrival in this camp, S was body-checked by "blatnois" who looked for "valuables" which new internees might have carried on him. There were 3 groups of Russian convicts, "warrers" (Russian word of unknown meaning), who were criminals, relatively "quiet", shared "profits" amongst themselves; second group "blatnois", criminals, who did not work, played cards all day and nights long; when they were told they would be transferred to other camp, some of them tried to comit suicide, cut veins with razor blades or slashed belly with short

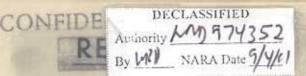
- 1. Memory Sketch of UKHTA p 8
- 2. Memory Sketch of Radio Station p 9

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AF FORM 112 - PART II



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knives, or tried other cruel self-mutilation. Blatnois feared "transfers" to branch camps more than death. They did not want to be separated from their "co-workers" and their "reliable" friends. Frequently convicts were stabbed during card playing. Third group were "soukker" (Russian word of unknown meaning) who were also criminals and worst enemies of blatnois. Usually convicts of same group lived in one barrack. Largest group were blatnois. Almost every convict carried tatoos over entire body. Russian guards within barrack area carried no arms. Camp area was well illuminated at night. Guards on watch towers carried carbines. Escapes during winter were hopeless because of deep snow, no human settlements in entire area. Only "free" human beings in entire area were MVD officers. Disciplinary methods in this camp unknown. Food consisted of bread and water soup. S never heard that any convict got hold of alcohol in this area.

5. OIL REFINERY. When S was interned in penal camp (Pt 30). In Jul 50, S heard from German PW who had worked in oil district (Pt 6) from Jul 48 - Jul 50, that this oil refinery produced soot from oil which was found in oil district. S never observed any transports of oil or any tank trucks or RR tank cars. (S was only twice on RR station - Pt 12- on arrival and on departure from this area).

6. OIL DISTRICT. Approx 12 km E of penal camp (Pt 30). In Jul 50, S heard from German PW who had worked in this district Jul 48 - Jul 50, that an oil field existed here. This PW had worked in one shaft of 140-160 m depth. In various depths, Russians had built "chambers" from which they tested surrounding rock and earth for oil by means of drilling equipment. Oil was found in a depth of 90-120 m from shaft, in other words in a depth of 240-280 m from ground surface. Oil came up from drill holes and was flowing freely once it had been found. Oil was pumped to surface. S did not know in what manner oil was then transported. Oil, according to S's informant, was very thick and smeary. This informant had said, they had worked almost naked in this shaft because gas and oil came up and smeared everything. Despite of repeated questioning, S was unable to furnish more details on this subject.

7. SRR, RSG. Led NE to VORKUTA (6730N-6403E). S arrived and departed on this SRR. According to Russians, SRR was built shortly before WW II, 1938/39. Wooden ties. S observed coal trains traveling W direction. Fourty - 50 Pullman cars, pulled by steam locomotives. (Observed Mar and Oct 50). No other traffic observed.

8. UKHTA RIVER. Twenty - 30 m wide. Moderate N-E current. Traversed wooded, swampy area. Myriads of moskitoes during summer months. Convicts who worked in woods as lumberjacks, said they could not have worked without protection nets. Not heard of malaria cases. Forest mostly coniferous trees. Lumber was used for constr of barracks.

9. STREET. Dirt surface, 6 m wide. Bad condition. Traffic not observed. 10. GYPSUM FACTORY. S remembered 1 large building which he passed once.

Russians said it was a gypsum production factory.

11. RR YARD. S remembered 2 tracks. When train arrived from W, waited on one of tracks until train coming from E, had passed station area. No rolling stock parked here. No coaling, no watering facilities observed. No loading area.

12. STATION BUILDING. Wood, 25 x 10 x 4 m.

13. STREET BRIDGE. S passed this bridge only twice by truck. Remembered bridge as such but could give no constr details. Bridge crossed UKHTA River (Pt 8)

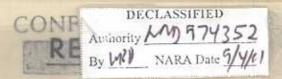
14. UKHTA. Widely scattered wooden buildings occupied by former convicts who were not permitted to leave this area after they had served their hard labor terms. Few stone houses. No regular street system. S heard from Russians that first human dwellings were erected here in 1934. Estimated length of built-up area

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was 3 km E-W. No industries known

15. UNKNOWN BUILDING. Stone, 20 x 10 x 8-10 m. Two-storied. Interior unknown. 16. MVD BUILDING. Stone, 25 x 10 x 8-10 m. Guarded. MVD soldiers observed

in vicinity of building.

17. PENAL CAMP # 1. S interned here Jul 50 - Oct 50. Distribution point for convicts arriving in UKHTA area. Thirty wooden barracks. Two-thousand Russian convicts in permanent section of camp, 300-400 in transit section. Male convicts only. Occasionally women in trasit camp, in separated barracks. Occasionally one or two German PWs arrived and deportees from SZG. S did not work during this time, was together with 50-60 Russian convicts and 8 German PWs in one of the barracks, in transit section. S was waiting for transfer. S had been sentenced to 25 years hard labor in 1947 in KALININGRAD. He did not know why he was transferred from here to STALINO (4759N-3750E). On eve of 18 Oct 50, S was transported in box car together with 18-20 in one section of car. Car had 5-6 sections, each with barred windows. Car was equipped with wooden sleeping facilities. Convicts received bread and fish on departure. Travel from UKHTA to STALINO lasted 14 days, including various stops of up to 2-3 days. Each section within car was locked during travel.

18. TELEPHONE LINE. Stretched along road (Pt 32) from UKHTA (Pt 14) to airfield

(Pt 22). Wooden poles, spaced 23-30 m, 6-7 cables.

A. TELEPHONE -INE. Stretched along SRR (Pt 7). Six - 7 cables along wooden

poles.

19. PENAL CAMP # 23. Four - 5 km W of road (Pt 32). S heard that internees

worked in nearby brickyard.

20. PENAL CAMP. Two-hundred m W of airfield (Pt 22). Was special camp for newly disciplined convicts, so-called "STRAFNOYS" (Russian word of unknown meaning). Six-hundred - 800 male internees. S did repair work on barracks during winter 1948/49. Nine wooden barracks. Surrounded by 2 dead zones of barbed wire with 3 m high board fence in-between. Ground in dead zones was raked daily ti facilitate recognition of footsteps. Internees worked in stone quarry (Pt 21). Average terms of internment were 2-3 years. Guards carried submachine guns. Were accompanied by dogs. Ne guards within barrack area.

One of disciplinary measures in this camp were handcuffs which internees wore within camp and on way to work. S heard of one even "worse" type of special camp, called "PUR" by Russians. This type camp was last stage of punishment which convicts could "reach" in this area. Internees of this "PUR" camp had to kneel down at entrance of camp on leaving and arriving from work and were issued their suits which they were not permitted to take into camp to prevent any escape. Highest term for this camp were 2 years. During night, internees of this "PUR" camp were locked in in barracks.

21. STONE QUARRY. Limestone.

22. AIRFIELD UKHTA (6334N-5342E). Existed when S arrived in UKHTA in Mar 48. Located on flat-plateau, 4 km EW, 1.5 km NS. Surrounded by woods, 400-500 m from edge of airfield. No airfield markings indicated airfield as such. Surface was grass level. No artificial runways. Ground was frozen from Sep - May. During winter, snow was removed by 2 large snow ploughs. (Oct/Mar /Apr/May, depending on thawing period). Almost daily training flights with single-engined bi-planes of which 8-9 existed on this airfield. One transport aircraft arrived daily shortly before 1200 hours; occasionally one transporter arrived 1730 hrs. Arrived from SW direction. Fellow PWs said, transporters were double-engined "DOUGLAS" planes. No parachuting. No AAA. No searchlights. No night flying. Weather changed frequently. Snowfall happened in June, occasionally. Sunshine few hours only per day. Mostly cloudy.

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Winter nights, however, usually clear. "North light" clearly to be seen during winter nights. Snow storms lasted up to 14 days, usually in spring time, March. Airfield had rectangular shape. Terrain was sloping S direction. Extension posdible to W, N, S sides into wooded area.

A. PARKING AREA. Three double-engined bomber aircraft, according to Russians, were US bombers. Covered by canvas. Observed during winter 1948/49. Last observed summer 49. S could observe that planes had long protruding front section.

B. BUNKER AREA. Two - 3 earth covered bunkers, 1 m above ground. S observed that Russian soldiers entered, left bunkers. Entrances 2 m wide. Size of bunkers unknown.

C. SHED. Wood, 6 x 8 x 3 m, shed roof, interior unknown.

D. PARKING AREA. Eight - 9 single-engined bi-planes parked here in open air. Occasionally Russian mechanics moved in this area. S said on entire airfield he never saw more than 30 persons.

E. PARKING AREA. In Sep 48, S observed one transport aircraft here, with running motor. Half hour later, this aircraft started, E-W direction. Russians said was "DOUGLAS" plane. Double-engined. Fueling not observed. (No fuel storage

anywhere observed on this airfield).

F. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. Wood, 20 x 10 x 4.5 m. Single-storied. S believed building contained messhall and billets because he saw Russian personnel entering and leaving this building when transport aircraft had arrived. Landings were also made E-W direction of airfield. No other buildings, no supply and repair facilities observed. No obstructions. Administration building was "old"; S

renewed stucco on outer building walls.

23. GUARDHOUSE. Wood, 3 x 3 x 3 m, newly built winter 1949/50. Board fence was built from this guardhouse around building (Pt 24) to creat fenced-in area

50 x 50 m.

24. UNKNOWN BUILDING. Wood, newly built Jul - Nov 49. Wooden gable roof. Contained 2 rooms with wooden floors. Brick stove in one of rooms. Otherwise empty. Telephone line (Pt 25) from airfield (Pt 22) reached this building. Was built along wooden poles in Nov 49. Building was located 1.5 m N of airfield (Pt 22). S believed this building would serve as radio station in connection with radio station (Pt 31) which was built since spring 49.

25. TELEPHONE LINE. Stretched from airfield (Pt 22) to building (Pt 24), 1 km

long. Four - 5 cables were fixed in Nov 49.

26. WINDSACK. Wooden pole, 12-15 m. First observed Mar 49. S observed that

wind usually came from E.

27. BILLETS. Wood, 30 x 12 x 12 m. Two-storied, 200 m W of airfield (Pt 22). Newly built by penal workers; completed in 1949. Contained living rooms, 5 in each floor. Occupied by 10-12 men of flying personnel; S believed there were 10 families with children, 5-9 years old, total 30 persons; men wore airforce uniform, fur coats in winter. Wore "combinations" when they went to airfield (Pt 22). S observed that some of men flew with single-engined bi-planes. Insignia on uniforms not recalled. S said, men wore usually flying dresses on which insignia could not be recognized. S did not know if these men were officers or EM. S insisted uniforms were those of Russian airforce. Building was reached by telephone line.

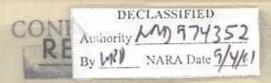
28. UNDERGROUND CABLE. In Nov 49, S observed 2-3 cables rolls, 1.8 m diameter each, along dashed line, indicated on sketch. Spring 1950, S heard from Russians that cable was laid 80-100 cm underground along this line, over distance of 1.5 km between radio station (Pt 31) and airfield (Pt 22). Cable on rolls was 2-3 cm thick

white insulated.

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29. TELEPHONE LINE. Wooden poles, spaced 30-35 m. Five - 6 cables. Stretched from street (Pt 2) W direction of airfield (Pt 22).

30. PENAL CAMP # 7. S was interned here Mar 48 - Jun 50. 2,500 Russian convicts including 600 women in separate barracks. Was camp for sick convicts. Nine barracks were used as hospitals. S said almost every kind of disease existed in this area. Many tuberculosis cases, also typhoid, venereal diseases. No chance

to report sick unless patient had fever. Death rate decreased since 1947. 31. RADIO STATION. Newly built 1948 - 1950. Completed Mar 1950. Wood, 22 x 14 x 8 m. Wooden gable roof. S applied cement surface on concrete floor in various rooms. Building was not occupied when last observed in Mar 50. Russian mechanics, no penal workers, fixed radio equipment. Building was surrounded by 8-12 m high wooden poles, 2.5 m in ground, spaced 8-10 m, which were connected with each other by one deep-hanging cable of 0.5 cm diameter. This cable was wound by spiral of shiny metal and close winding. Two - 3 petticoats on each side of pole. Petticoats of unrecalled color. Purpose of cables unknown. Ref is made to Incl 2.

A. COMPRESSOR ROOM. Contained motor which S called "compressor". S was not sure if "compressor" was not an electric motor. 1.5 m wide, 0.8 m high. Vaulte

metal roof. No cables.

B. INSTRUMENT ROOM. Two instrument cases, each 2 m wide, 2.5 m high, along W wall; one instrument case, same size, on S and on N wall. Numerous control handles on front side. One electric bulb on top of each instrument case. No cables S said instrument cases were not yet connected with electric cables.

C. EMPTY ROOM. Concrete floor, 4 x 6 m, was laid in spring 1950.

D. LIVING ROOM. Empty.

E. KITCHEN. Brick stove. Otherwise empty.

F. EMPTY ROOM. 3 x 3.5 m. G. EMPTY ROOM. 3 x 4 m.

32. ROAD. Three-4 m wide, dirt surface. Main connection between UKHTA and airfield (Pt 22). Traffic not observed.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. In Oct 49, S understood from conversations of Russian penal workers who had been transferred from the KARAGANDA area to this area for unknown reasons (transfer of convicts was flowing continuously, as S said), that they had witnessed percussion of ground. This, they said, had come from atomic tests in the KARAGANDA area. These atomic tests, however, as these convicts had also heard in the KARAGANDA area, had been a "failure". Atomic tests had taken place in or before Oct 49. Three - 4 Russian penal workers discussed these news few days after penal workers had arrived from KARAGANDA. S said he understood enough Russian to have noticed main points of conversation.

2. S heard from Russians in UKHTA area that an approx number of 34 penal

camps existed in the UKHTA area. Camp # 9 was camp for female convicts.

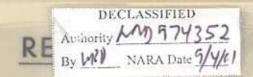
3. S met Russian Red Army colonel in Sep 50 in penal camp # 17, Incl 1, this Rpt. Russian colonel, 48-50 years old, had newly arrived in this camp few days before from Austria where he held military position in Russian tank division. There he had been disciplined for unknown reason and sentenced to 15 or 20 years hard labor. He still wore his uniform, but without insignia. Colonel spoke good German and S believed that he had been high-ranking officer. This colonel said that a RR line was under constr along the entire North-Siberian coast and that this RR projected through a 25-30 km long tunnel underneath of OB River in North Siberia This RR, according to this colonel, was still under constr in 1950.

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4. Russian convicts in UKHTA said, some 35 million Russians were behind barbed wire. (This was said in 1950). Convicts lived in hope of being freed.

Aprill 6. Fountain

ASHIRLEY A KOLPIN

LT. Colonel, United States Air Force

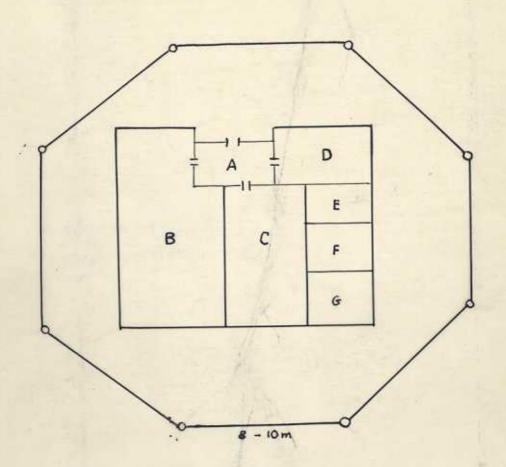
Commander

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7050 A.I.S. WING



(Point 31, Incl 1, Rpt A)
Memory Sketch of Radio Station
in UKHTA (63 34N/53 24E).
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Incl # 2.



